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RAMADAN THE MONTH OF FORGIVENESS

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ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَآئِلِ: يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ ٱلصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى ٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَآ إِلَـٰهَ إِلاَّ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ، لاَ شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ، وَرَسُوْلُهُ. اَللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِيْنَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَآ أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ! اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أُوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ. قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَىٰ: يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟ ٱتَّقُوا۟ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِۦ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ.

- My dear Muslims, realise that the month of Ramadan is now upon us. This sacred and beautiful month, a month that the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) during it’s time, he stood up on the mimbar and he called the Sahaba and he gave a khutbah to them and he said:

- "Ramadan, a blessed month, has come to you during which Allah has made it obligatory for you to fast. In it the gates of Heaven are opened, the gates of al-Jahim are locked, and the rebellious devils are chained.

- In it Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months. He who is deprived of its good has indeed suffered deprivation." Narrated by al-Nasai

- Brothers, this is that very month, this is the month of Ramadan. The month of Ramadan is the holiest time of the year. We thank Allah that not all of the timings of the year are the same rather Allah has preferred some timings over others.

- And this month is the most preferred and the most blessed timing. And what this does for us is that it encourages us to be good, it makes us want to do extra good deeds in this month.

- And realise my dear brothers, that the month has been made so easy for you; every aspect has been facilitated for you.

- Jahannam is closed, Jannah is wide open. There are no devils, nobody can now come and say: Oh! shaitaan whispered into my ear. There are no shayateen whispering; if you do a bad deed in this month realise that 100% this deed is from you.

- Not that if you did it outside of Ramadan you can blame shaitaan. Shaitaan can only whisper but in Ramadan – he cannot even whisper in Ramadan. Even that is taken away from him.

- Any evil that you do in this month, it comes from your soul. So Ramadan is a reflection of who you are. If you are good and righteous in Ramadan this shows that you have a good side to you.

- But if you cannot be good in this month, if you fail to live up to the expectations of your religion in this month then, realise that there is no hope for you at all. And this is not my words, this is not my speech; this is the speech of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam).

- Malik ibn Al Hasan ibn Malik ibn Al Huwayrith reported on the authority of his father from his grandfather who said:

- "The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) climbed the pulpit and when he climbed a step, he said: "Amen," then he climbed another step and said: "Amen," then he climbed another step and said: "Amen."

- Then he said: "Gabriel came to me and said: O Muhammad, whoever attends Ramadan but his sins are not forgiven, may Allah send him away. I said: Amen.

- He said: Whoever has his parents alive or one of them then they were not a cause to admit him to paradise, may Allah send him away.

- He said: Whomever I was mentioned at him and he did not send peace and blessings upon you, may Allah send him away. Say: Amen. I said: Amen." Sahih Ibn Hibban (2/140) No. (409).

- So three dua's were made. That there are three golden opportunities; three opportunities that even the worst of mankind can get their sins forgiven if they only turn to Allah.

- One of those opportunities, one, related to Ramadan. One of them deal with Ramadan. And these are – the entire month.

- In other words what Jibreel (as) is saying and what the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said Ameen to – and ponder over this my dear brothers, and think about it.

- If you cannot be righteous and good in this month then really you have no hope there is no hope for you. Why? Because there are no excuses.

- Shayateen have been chained up. There is no way to go except Jannah. Jannah is open, Jahannam is closed.

- Every night Allah subhanahu wa ta’ala frees hundreds and thousands and millions of people who have been destined to go to hell. He frees them because of their good deeds.

- If you can’t be amongst them, if you are not able to be good in this month then really and truly there is no hope.

- But the question is: what do you have to do? Very simple! The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said:
  - مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَاناً واحْتِساباً ، غُفِرَ لَهُ ما تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذنْبِهِ.
  - مَنْ قام رَمَضَانَ إِيمَاناً واحْتِساباً ، غُفِرَ لَهُ ما تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذنْبِهِ.
  - مَنْ قام ليلة القدر إِيمَاناً واحْتِساباً ، غُفِرَ لَهُ ما تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذنْبِهِ.

- Whoever fasts the entire month of Ramadan believing in Allah and hoping for Allah's reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.
- Whoever stands up at the month of Ramadan believing in Allah and hoping for Allah's reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.
- Whoever stands up the night of Qadr believing in Allah and hoping for Allah's reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.

- Three things he said, any one of them will forgive all of your sins, all – unconditional, no matter what sin you have done, if you repent properly in this month and you do what Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala wants you to do and what the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) told us to do, all of your sins will be forgiven.

- What are these three things?
- He said: Whoever fasts the entire month of Ramadan believing in Allah and hoping for Allah's reward. Those are the only two conditions; that you are a believer in Allah and you do the fasts wanting the reward from Allah.

- You are doing it expecting Allah to reward you. You are not doing it because society is doing it, you are not doing it because your parents want you to do it; you are not doing it because all of your friends are doing it. You are not doing it because the culture of your country requires you to do it.

- You are doing it for the sake of Allah. You are doing it purely to please Allah. If you did it with this intention, the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said: all of your previous sin are forgiven.

- The second thing he said, whoever stands up at night in Ramadan and Ramadan has a beautiful prayer, that we call taraweeh.

- This prayer is a prayer that is the equivalent of the tahajjud of the other nights in Ramadan. We call it taraweeh.

- This prayer is a prayer that the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) did occasionally and the sahaba also did and it is something that he did it in congregation occasionally and he did it at his home all the time.

- And so in our times it has become a congregational prayer that is encouraged to do. You are encouraged to pray taraweeh.

- It is not obligatory but you are encouraged to do so and if you do so every single night, if you do so then that is one more opportunity to have all of your sins forgiven.

- And the third opportunity to have all of your sins forgiven is the opportunity known as Laylatul qadr. And what will make you understand what Laylatul qadr is?

- It is one night of Ramadan, it is one night of Ramadan than when you worship Allah properly when you are standing in prayer and reading Quran and doing dhikr for this one night that all of your previous sins will be forgiven.

- This is Laylatul Qadr! So the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) gave us three opportunities in this month to get all of our sins forgiven.

- One more blessing of Ramadan – Ramadan is the month that when you perfect your fasting in it, you may enter Jannah by a special door. It is a special door set aside for those who fast.

- The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said: In Jannah there is a special door called Ar-Rayyan. And Ar-Rayyan means ‘that which will give you lots of water’. So it is called ‘that which will give you water’ because the way to get to it is to deprive yourself of water. How so?

- The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said: It is set aside for those who fast frequently. For those who perfect their fast, and you cannot perfect your fast until you have perfected the fast of Ramadan.

- So fasting Ramadan forgives your sins. Fasting Ramadan causes you to enter Jannah. Fasting Ramadan brings about a sense of taqwa and Imaan.

- Remember Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala says: "O You who believe, fasting has been made obligatory upon you as it was made on those before you so that you may achieve righteousness and piety."

- So remember – that the purpose of fasting in Ramadan is to achieve righteousness and piety. This is the ultimate goal. Allah does not benefit when you tire yourself out, rather you are the one that benefits.

- So we pray to Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala that may He make us amongst those whose sins are forgiven in this month, whose fasting is accepted, whose reading of the Quran is accepted and whose Qiyam is accepted. And may He make you amongst those who enter Jannah through the gate of Ar-Rayyan.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَـذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَآئِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.

2nd Sermon

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيْرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لاَ شَرِيْكَ لَهُ ، إِقْرَارًا بِرُبُوْبِيَّتِهِ وَإِرْغَامًا لِمَنْ جَحَدَ بِهِ وَكَفَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ، سَيِّدُ الْخَلاَئِقِ وَالْبَشَرِ. اَللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ مَصَابِيْحِ الْغُرَرِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ ، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيْمَا أَمَرَ ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

- Therefore, throughout the entire Ramadaan Allah is offering a reward package that is manifold. Obligatory acts will be rewarded 70 times, while the reward for sunnah acts is equivalent to obligatory acts.

- The Muslims are highly encouraged to aid and honor the poor and destitute, giving zakaah to eligible recipients, feeding the orphans, hasten in giving charity, and giving off wealth in the path of Allah.

- Ramadaan also develops Muslims that are concerned and actively strengthening the Islamic bond. The practice of feeding the poor, needy and orphans, and offering iftaar to others are from among deeds that will strengthen the silaaturrahm (kinship).

- In one hadeeth, Zayd bin Khaalid al-Juhaani radiyAllaahu ‘anh narrated that Rasulullah sallAllahu ‘alayhi wasallam said:

- “Whoever provides the food for a fasting person to break his fast with, then for his is the same reward as his (the fasting person's), without anything being diminished from the reward of the fasting person.”
- (at-Tirmidhi: hasan saheeh)

- Let us compete in reaping the generous offering promised by Allah throughout the entire Ramadaan. Let us perform our fasting with diligence so that we will attain the hikmah behind such ‘ibaadah.

O servant of Allah, remember that this world is a place for temporary lodging. Truly, hereafter is the everlasting and permanent abode. So let us devote to Allah for obtaining happiness and escape from the punishment of hellfire.

- Allah says in Surah Al Ahzab verse 56:

إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ وَمَلَٰٓئِكَتَهُۥ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى ٱلنَّبِيِّۚ يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ
ءَامَنُواْ صَلُّواْ عَلَيۡهِ وَسَلِّمُواْ تَسۡلِيمًا ٥٦

- Which means:

  “Indeed Allah confers blessing upon the prophet and His angels (ask Him to do so). O! You who have believed, ask Allah to confer blessing upon him and ask Allah to grant him peace.”

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ

- Let us pray that may Allah SWT be please with the khalifahs of Rasulullah s.a.w i.e Sayyidina Abu Bakr al-Siddiq r.a., Sayyidina Umar al-Khattab r.a., Sayyinda Uthman ibn Affan r.a., Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Thalib r.a.

- And to his companions who struggle to uphold the religion of Allah, also to his uncles Sayyidina Hamzah and Sayyidina Abbas r.a. and to his granchildren Sayyidina Hassan and Sayyidina Hussain r.a., his daughters Sayyidatina Fatimah al-Zahraa', his wives Sayyidatina Khadijah and Sayyidatina Aisyah r.a. and the other wives. Followed by his family, companions, followers of the companions and those who come after them from time to time until the end of the world.

ٱللَّهُمَّ ٱغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَٱلْمُسْلِمَٰتِ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

وَٱلْمُؤْمِنَٰتِ ٱلْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَٱلْأَمْوَاتِ،

- O Allah, forgive all Muslims and believers, whether surviving or deceased. O Allah, grant us glory and prosperity to those who fight and spend their wealth in your way such as those who pay zakat, waqaf etc.

- Ya Allah, bestow your guidance and help to the leaders and kings of the Muslim countries especially to Abdaka Al-Harith Lishariatika Al-Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Al-Sultan Iskandar, the Sultan and ruler for the State of Johor Darul Takzim.

- And to Raja Zarith Sofea Binti Al-Marhum Sultan Idris Shah, Tengku Ismail Ibn Sultan Ibrahim, Pemangku Raja Johor and, the Prince and Princess, the royal kinship, and all Muslims.

ٱللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ ٱلاسْلاَمَ وَٱلْمُسْلِمِينَ ، واخْذُلِ الكَفَرَةَ
والْمُبْتَدِعَةَ والْمُشْرِكِينَ وكُلَّ مَنْ هُوَ عَدُوٌّ لِلدِّينِ.

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَٱجْعَلْنَا
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا .

ٱللَّهُمَّ أَدْخِلْنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا وَأُصُولَنَا وَفُرُوعَنَا ٱلْجَنَّةَ مَعَ ٱلْأَبْرَارِ يَا عَزِيزُ يَا

غَفَّارُ يَا رَبَّ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ. رَبَّنَا ٱغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَٰنِنَا ٱلَّذِينَ

سَبَقُونَا بِٱلْإِيمَٰنِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِّلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا۟

رَبَّنَآ إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ. رَبَّنَآ ءَاتِنَا فِي ٱلدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي

ٱلْأَخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ ٱلنَّارِ وَٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ.

عِبَادَ ٱللَّه ، إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِٱلْعَدْلِ وَٱلْإِحْسَٰنِ وَإِيتَآيِٕ ذِى
ٱلْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ ٱلْفَحْشَآءِ وَٱلْمُنكَرِ وَٱلْبَغْيِ
يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ .

فَاذْكُرُوا ٱللَّه الْعَظِيْمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ ، وَاشْكُرُوْهُ عَلَى نِعَمِه
يَزِدْكُمْ ، وَلَذِكْرُ ٱللَّه أَكْبَرُ ، وَٱللَّه يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.

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